

[Mr. GILMAN], the chairman, and the ranking Democratic member, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON], who are also strong proponents of this as well.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has voted three times so far this year to reauthorize the au pair program, in the American Overseas Interests Act, which passed the House in June, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, and the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Act. Unfortunately, all three of these bills have been held up in the Senate or by the White House because of other issues, critically important issues, to be sure, but issues having nothing whatsoever to do with the au pair program.

The solution clearly is to pass a free-standing au pair reauthorization bill.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are about to vote on has already been passed by the other body, and we are presenting this bill instead of an identical House bill so that we can get it to the President's desk immediately. The House bill was marked up Thursday in the Subcommittee on International Operations, and then the full Committee on International Relations took it up with a favorable recommendation later on the same day.

The bill has bipartisan support, and I hope it will have unanimous support of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the Senate has already passed an identical bill. Hundreds of American families have been inconvenienced during the period since September 30 when the authorization for the au pair program inadvertently expired. This is a program we can fix today, and, as I said, the Senate has passed it, and I hope the President will sign it as soon as it crosses his desk.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the gentleman from New York, Chairman GILMAN, and our ranking member, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. HAMILTON, were able to work together on this bill to extend the authority of USIA to run the au pair program for another 2 years.

The bill before us would change the existing program in two respects. First, it would open the program to applicants from countries around the world; and, second, it would allow the program to be run by any qualifying organization.

I understand the au pair program brings many positive experiences both to au pairs and to their host families. The bill before us takes a prudent and practical approach to the extension of the program at this time, and on that basis I urge the adoption of the bill.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the leadership which our colleague

from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights. He has played a key role in the effort to resolve the future of the au pair program. I also want to recognize the chairman of the full Committee on International Relations, Congressman BEN GILMAN of New York, and our the ranking Democratic member of the committee, Congressman LEE HAMILTON of Indiana. They have also played a critical role in dealing with this issue.

The au pair program has been in a state of uncertainty for a number of years, and it has been extended temporarily several times. The authorization for the operation of this program expired on September 30 of this year, and the legislation which we approved in this House to extend the program has not yet passed both houses of the Congress. For this reason, it is important that we act to resolve, at least temporarily again, this uncertainty for a specified period of time.

Our legislation today simply extends the program for another 2 years—until September 30, 1997—without resolving the question of its ultimate fate or ultimate future structure and existence. The legislation, however, does require a report from USIA, which should provide a basis for us to take more permanent action in 2 years.

This legislation does make improvements, and I welcome those changes. In the past the au pair program has been limited to young people from European countries. This legislation broadens the program to include other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This expansion will create additional problems for those who administer the program, but the extension of the program to all countries is a positive step.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support international educational exchange programs, including this one for au pairs. As the founder of the California State Universities' study abroad program, I have long supported and promoted efforts to encourage young women and men to travel and learn about other countries, other languages, and other cultures. The au pair program provides an important opportunity for young people from other countries to experience American culture firsthand. These are young people who generally come from families which do not have the resources to permit them to travel independently or to study at an American university. It is important that they have this personal experience of our country.

It is extremely important, however, that the USIA and those who administer this program understand that this is an educational program—its purpose is to give young people experience with our country and its culture. Families who provide a home and food for foreign young people while they are here reasonably expect some assistance with household tasks. But this is not a program to circumvent our Nation's labor and immigration laws relating to employment in the United States by foreign citizens. This is not a program to provide free child care for upper-middle class Americans.

It is not a program to get around our Nation's labor laws. Those laws have been written for specific policy objectives, and the au pair program must be consistent with our labor laws. It is extremely important that the international educational exchange component of this program be recognized and acknowledged as being central to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2767, a bill to extend the authorization for the au pair program for 2 years, through the end of fiscal year 1997.

I was pleased to introduce this measure because the authority for the program expired on September 30. Many families have been highly inconvenienced and child care plans have been turned upside down by the delay in the extending this program. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to pass this extension and enable the program to continue to operate.

This is a bipartisan bill, and I want to acknowledge the key role the distinguished ranking member on our committee, my good friend from Indiana, Mr. HAMILTON, has played in drafting the bill and moving it through the committee.

A key element of this measure is to greatly broaden the regions of participation by repealing a section of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act that froze the au pair program as it existed in 1990.

In 1990 there were eight agencies administering an au pair program and it was limited to participants from Western Europe. Repealing this provision allows more agencies to run au pair programs, and opens it up to worldwide participation.

We also require the U.S. Information Agency to submit a report to Congress regarding a further extension of the program. The report must specifically address the compliance of the au pair organizations with new regulations governing the program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important extension.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1465.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1465.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### MAX ROSEN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. GILCHRIST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1718) to designate the U.S. courthouse located at 197 South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA, as the